

May

1987

PAARA

*GRAPHS*

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**Featuring:**

Is PAARA ready for the challenge:  
Field Day? A financial report  
from the April Flea Market. Also  
included is the third and final  
section of the packet article ➡

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF THE PALO ALTO AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION  
AND**

**THE MENLO PARK C.D. AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

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And a few anonymous, but *very* important publication people!

## PAARA Policies

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calender year which includes a subscription to *PAARAgraphs*. Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026

Club Net on 147.45 MHz Mondays at 8:30 P.M.

Meetings monthly at the Menlo Park Recreation Center at 7:30 P.M., the first Friday of the month.

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### **From the Editor's Desk:**

As PAARA members, we receive the benefits of the Foothill facilities for the flea markets. Part of our agreement with the Perham Foundation involves providing volunteers on certain weekends to staff the Foothill Electronics Museum. The details of this have not yet been worked out. However, two members will be sent to the museum as described in duty schedules to appear in following issues.

## **Speaker of the Month:**

Gene Marshack, N6LDH, the President of the Lockheed Amateur Radio Club presents a witty parody of Amateur Radio. A short, hilarious videotape will also be included in the lecture. This should be refreshingly entertaining. Don't miss this!

## **Coming Attractions:**

Andy, VE3FZK, is working hard to line up some of the following speakers for our benefit. Be looking forward to:

Next month: Kent Cullers on Extra-Terrestrials  
Red Stafford on the ARRL, Tom McShane on RFI  
Paul Schuch on microwave techniques and K1BCD on robotics.

(Dinner with the speaker: 6:15 at Su Hong's!)

## The April Flea Market

Although I was in Hawaii during the April 11<sup>th</sup> Flea Market at Foothill College, Fred Canham reports that it was a lucrative affair for PAARA. Items sold at the Foothill Flea Market resulted in PAARA netting \$162.00. Thanks goes to Jack McEnnerney, W6LII; George Ice, K6CMT; Ron Panton, W6VG; and the estate of Erv Rasmussen, W6YPM, which donated the equipment.

Currently we need people to sell the gear donated by Randy Tomas, K6GDH, which is currently being stored by PAARA. Equipment is also being stored in the PAARA trailer which the club no longer uses. Any takers? If you are interested in selling or buying the above mentioned items, please see Fred Canham, K6YT, Property Chairman of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, (415) 948-9238.

## The California QSO Party

Since we are a northern California radio club, it would be nice to support the California QSO Party (CQP), which is sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club. The CQP will be held the weekend before the PAARA auction in October. October 3-4, 1987.

Thanks to Fred Canham, K6YT, for the above reports.

## Field Day

Get ready, we are running out of time to prepare for Field Day!! If we want to make this contest fun, we all had better prepare for it **NOW**. I am a phone captain and I am looking for volunteer operators as well as supporting personnel to set up antennas, cook food, etc. I want this Field Day to be a success both contest-wise and socially. Let's make this Field Day something to remember.

--de KB6BFM--

## Part III:

This is the third and final section of Jon Bloom's article on the importance of networking and regulation in the aftermath of the packet radio explosion.

The approach to the congestion problems taken in many areas has been to recommend frequencies for specific uses. Usually, one or more frequencies get set aside for long-haul linking between digipeaters and/or BBS systems, with several frequencies allocated to local use. The local-use frequencies are often separated by intended use, such as local-user access to BBS systems, bulk-data transfers and the like. [The New York State Packet Forum plan described elsewhere in this issue of Gateway is an example of such a plan.] In an environment of single-port machines, this approach makes sense and is a first step toward solving the problem. All of these frequency plans are an attempt to come to grips with the basic problem. One can, perhaps, argue the specifics of a particular plan, but it is hard to see a case against the concept of frequency planning. Anarchy is not a workable solution to the problems of packet radio.

You may have noticed that I have addressed the problems only as they apply to digipeaters. What about the upcoming networking systems? Won't the arrival of network node controllers (NNC), network-layer (and higher) protocols and higher-speed modems solve all of our problems? No, these things by themselves, do not solve the basic physical-layer problem of collisions. Whether the network nodes in use are simple digipeaters or more intelligent NNCs, the basic collision problem remains. Sure, higher-speed modems would reduce the problem--for a while. The analogy to use is that of the highway. If you convert a congested two-lane road to a superhighway, congestion is eased, until more drivers start using the new road and congestion builds up again. Fortunately, the analogy isn't perfect; we can reduce packet congestion by predetermining the best "roads" to use and easily build new ones where they are needed. The thing is, we need coherent plans in order to make best use of the "roads" we build. The most desirable system for packet is one in which 1) the transmissions of local users who are using the network do not collide with those of distant transmitters, and 2) the number of local users using a single network node is limited, to reduce collisions among the local user group. Accomplishing this will require a relatively large number of network nodes, each on a frequency that is not used by other nearby nodes. To accomplish this desirable end, intelligent frequency selection and use is a must. Let's all support these goals by putting together effective regional network management organizations.

By Jon Bloom, KE3Z

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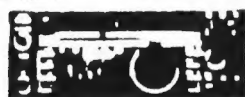
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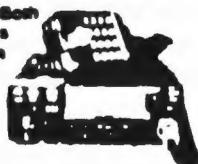


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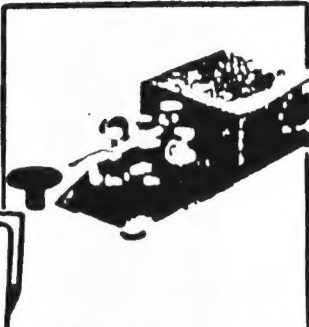
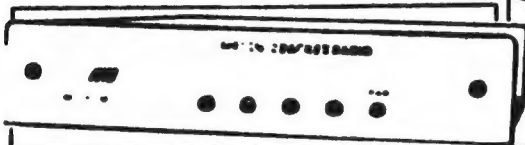
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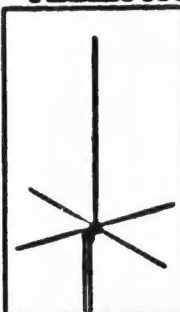


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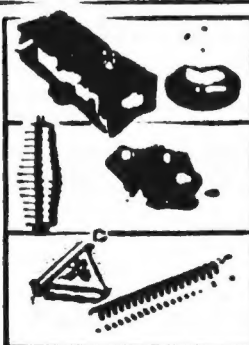
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